

**U.S. Embassy Kathmandu Nepal
Webchat with Ambassador Delisi
December 22, 2010**



CHAT MODERATOR:Welcome to the web chat with Ambassador Delisi.

CHAT MODERATOR:The Ambassador will answer as many questions as he can.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Good afternoon, everyone.

CHAT MODERATOR:You may begin submitting questions now.

Aryal:Its nice to get this chance sir

SCOTT H. DELISI:Glad to have a chance to chat with all of you.

abilash gupta:we are fortunate to chat to a great personality like you sir!!

SCOTT H. DELISI:The pleasure is mine. It is important that we talk to more than just senior leaders if we want to understand the country

sagar:I have lost my passport and I am here at Arkansas at OPT period. I got new passport via nepalese embassy but I dont have VISA on it. What is the best way to get VISA and is there any complication for me to visit my family during OPT period. Please suggest me

SCOTT H. DELISI:Sagar: Thank you for your question. I am going to ask my consular staff to get me the answer while we chat.

A. Dhakal:Thank You for this opportunity Mr. Ambassador

SCOTT H. DELISI:Hi Dhakal

sagar:Thank you for your response.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Sagar: I should have a good answer for you in a minute. Bear with us.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Meanwhile, are there other questions we can answer?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Dhakal: I see you are in Minnesota in my home town of St. Paul.

SCOTT H. DELISI:I will grab my consular experts to see if they can help you with your query as well. Or I will give you their contact information to answer you directly.

A. Dhakal:Really? Very nice to know that! What a coincidence! There has been an huge snow storm here.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Hello, Amrita

Amrita Shrestha:Hello sir

SCOTT H. DELISI:Dhakal: My mother has told me all about the snow in Minnesota. I am glad to be in Kathmandu!

Michele Clary-Dhital:Hello Mr. Ammassador and Happy Holidays! We very much enjoyed the Thanksgiving program at your residence at appreciated the entire program and food. Thank you for doing that.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Michele: It was our pleasure. I think it is always good to share a bit of America with each other ...especially at the holidays. Thanks for coming!

ram:i have a question shal i ask honorable ambassador

SCOTT H. DELISI:Yes, Ram?

ram:pls no silly question,,, as we know its very rare chance to talk with him pls ask some genuine questions

SCOTT H. DELISI:I am happy to answer any questions if you are interested.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Dhakal: For your question, please email CONSKTM@STATE.GOV Tell them you were talking with me on the webchat and they will get you a quick response in more detail than I can offer.

SCOTT H. DELISI:I would say to the rest of you, I am happy to chat about most anything but it is hard to take everyone's time to discuss individual visa cases. Perhaps we should seek to avoid them.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Sagar: You can come home during your OPT. You do not need a visa while in the US. You should reapply for your visa here and as long as you have maintained your status there should be no problems. If you do not come home you can apply in Canada or Mexico, but that can be more difficult. If you have other questions use the same address I gave Dhakal.

devi:WHat is your favorite thing about nepal?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Devi: There is so much I love about Nepal. But I think that the very best thing about your nation is the people.

SCOTT H. DELISI:I have great respect and affection for the people of this country whose kindness, decency, and quiet strength and resilience are so impressive.

abilash gupta:thank you very much your honoourable Mr.,ambassador thankyou

SCOTT H. DELISI:Guest: LOL...I like to think I am very democratic! If what you mean is that I am open to talking to all and hearing different points of view!

SCOTT H. DELISI:Oops...I see that Guest's question did not appear....

SCOTT H. DELISI:It was a comment...saying that they had found me to be a bit democratic and wondering if it was true....

samerashrestha:why consular denied to give visa most of the real students

SCOTT H. DELISI:Actually, Samera, many students do get visas and Nepalis are one of the largest groups of students in the world currently attending universities in the United States

CHAT MODERATOR:For those of you interested in student visas, you may want to review the transcript from a previous web chat on student visas at <http://nepal.usembassy.gov/webchat.html>

SCOTT H. DELISI:The Moderator makes a very good point. We have thousands of visa cases a year. I am unable to really discuss individual cases with any detail. I hope you all understand.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Are any of you interested in the other issues we deal with? Trafficking? Disaster Preparedness? Environment? The Peace Process? Job creation? I am curious as to what your most worrisome or pressing concerns are.

guest:well, thats kind of you to be democratic, however, what is your concern about the present situation of Nepalese society?

SCOTT H. DELISI:My concern for Nepalese society is that the nation move forward to create a stable, secure, democratic and prosperous country in which all voices can be heard and in which respect for the rule of law is a core value for everyone, including leaders...particularly leaders.

samerashrestha:preparedness about what

SCOTT H. DELISI:There are so many steps that can be taken to prepare for the risks posed to the nation by the threat of a major natural disaster. Steps now can save so many lives and protect the nation's investment in development.

guest:I salute your vision, however, do you personally have anythings to say about the leaders| ?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Guest: The leaders are the people your citizens have chosen and as such I respect them and do my best to work with them constructively.

sagar:Sir, I would also like to know, do you have major plan to support maiti nepal recently?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Sagar: We have provided Maiti Nepal with a significant grant of a half a million US dollars this year and I am so pleased we are working in partnership with Anuradha Koirala and her organization.

SCOTT H. DELISI:We met recently to discuss what other steps we could take to address the problem of trafficking including here in Nepal with the dance bars, and cabin restaurants and massage parlors.

Suman:In your opinion, Ambassador, who should be Prime Minister?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Suman: The Prime Minister s hold be whoever can command the respect and support of the political leadership and the public. We will always work with any government that is chosen by a democratic and open process.

guest:Of course, that is which the foreign diplomacy is, and it doesnt mean i am compelling you too.. but I am sure, you might be smiling while answering this question.

SCOTT H. DELISI:I often smile! And always attempt to be a diplomat!

sundar:sir can we email on CONSKTM@STATE.GOV if we have any questions

SCOTT H. DELISI:Yes, Sundar. And my colleagues there will do the best they can to answer your questions.

Srijana:Ambassador, what do you think about the current political situation?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Srijana: I think that this is a time of political growth and evolution here. The parties are learning how to do their work and to engage each other in a Nepal that has changed dramatically from the past. I think that there is much for everyone to learn and it will take time but I also believe that there is progress.

RAMJEE:my question is what is positive effort for the development of Nepal?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Ramjee: We have a very active development program that reflects 60 years of partnership.

SCOTT H. DELISI:We are doing so much I could write for an hour but for now I will just highlight our work in health, food security, biodiversity, climate change and prosperity building. I am very proud of the development program. This last year our budget was over \$50 millions. Next year it could be in excess of \$80 million.

guest:Does US plans to resettle Tibetan Refugees as it is doing for Bhutanese?

SCOTT H. DELISI:The Tibetan population in Nepal has been here much longer and is in a different situation than the Bhutanese refugees in the camps in the east. We remain concerned, however, with working with the government to give them the best possible options for a full and productive life whether in Nepal or elsewhere.

RAMJEE:What is the effect of Wikileaks on relation between USA and Nepal?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Ramjee: I think that there should be no impact. The important messages are not those that appear on Wikileaks which may or may not even be accurate. The real messages are those we send every day as we work in partnership with your government to build a peaceful, democratic, stable, prosperous and safe, society. Our partnership is strong, it is real, and I believe it will stay that way.

sagar:I also would like to now about the american effort to reduce the effect of climate change

SCOTT H. DELISI:Sagar: We have a new initiative from President Obama and we are designing the program now to work more actively with the government on mitigating the impact of climate change and protecting the natural landscapes of Nepal. Just last week I went with a team from Washington to study the impact of glacial melting on the formation of glacial lakes.

RAMJEE:I listened that American Universities and government have reduced funds for the scholarships to international students due to the impact of recession, is it ture? If it is true then students like me will be suffered, what do you think about this?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Ramjee: In difficult budget times it can be hard for universities to maintain their scholarship programs at high levels but I cannot predict, I am afraid. We will all hope for the best.

guest:Sir, what do you have to say about the climate changes and its adverse effects on great Himalayas?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Guest: I touched on this earlier. We are all concerned about the implications of climate change which can affect so much of the nation's life and development from agriculture, to health, to tourism. We are working closely with the government to study these issues to better understand how we can help most constructively.

guest:Sir, does US is creating any sustainable programs for Nepal where peoples' gross can be more and can get a better life?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Guest: We have many such programs. Recently I visited with farmers whose incomes had increased by %400 over 17 months through one of our flood recovery programs. We have vocational training programs for young people in the midwest to give them skills that will allow them to earn higher incomes and it is already showing results. These are just a few examples.

deepti:Hi Mr ambassador..may i ask a wuestion too?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Deepti: Anyone is free to ask. I will answer as many as I can..

samerashrestha:so sir when next webchat wil be

SCOTT H. DELISI:Samera: If this is successful and folks enjoy it we will do another perhaps in a few months.

RAMJEE:your VP said Wikileaks founder is a terrorist, do you believe that?

SCOTT H. DELISI:I did not see that statement, Ram. I know that I find it disappointing that individuals feel that they have the right to take information shared in confidence and publish it without regard to the consequences to the individuals they put at risk or delicate international relations.

guest:Is it that US invests more in Nepal in terms to get eyed over China and India regarding several things, and is afraid more with the economic booming from China?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Guest: The US invests in Nepal because we care about Nepal and its future and are a friend of many years. For us this is not a competition and especially not with India and China who are your neighbors and with whom you inevitably have close and friendly relations.

RAMJEE:It is listened that you are being positive towards Maoist thesedays since Nepali congress in terms of potentiality to guide the nation for the development has failed

SCOTT H. DELISI:Ramjee: I am neither positive nor negative towards parties. We are, however, positive towards peace and the completion of the constitution and we will work with all parties and groups who are committed to building a stable, democratic society.

Nishchal Pandey:With your experiences in other countries across the globe, how do you rate the level of strategic thinking among policy makers and the quality of think-tanks in Nepal?

SCOTT H. DELISI:I am impressed to see that there is a real effort to develop new and stronger and more independent think tanks here. I have met recently with several groups that I think are on the right track and I am hopeful for the future.

CHAT MODERATOR:There is time for a few more questions. Please be patient as Ambassador DeLisi tries to answer as many questions as possible in the time we have left.

sagar:Sir, Do you have any plans to make joint effort with CIAA to reduce corruption in NEPAL

SCOTT H. DELISI:The US is always sensitive to and concerned about issues of corruption and our own laws are very strict about our codes of conduct, ethical behavior, and restrictions on engagement with corrupt entities. We respect the efforts made by the government and the CIAA to address these concerns but have not been asked to formally engage in a joint effort in any particular area.

RAMJEE:The consulars in American Embassy are often termed as moody that is what people blame regarding granting or not granting visa to US; HOW people might have thought like that. but sometime even some renowned celebrity of Nepal also not granted visa to support people's allegation. what do you think about it?

SCOTT H. DELISI:Consular work is very difficult and anyone who is denied a visa is disappointed. I believe, however, I have some of the finest and most considerate officers in our Foreign Service serving here. They apply our laws fairly and objectively and even when they must say "no" they try to do so respectfully.

SCOTT H. DELISI:I think we are about out of time.

CHAT MODERATOR:Thank you for participating today.

SCOTT H. DELISI:I want to thank all of you for participating in this webchat today.

CHAT MODERATOR:The transcript of today's chat will be available at <http://nepal.usembassy.gov/webchat.html>

SCOTT H. DELISI:Please provide your feedback and we will determine if there is interest in future such events.

SCOTT H. DELISI:Happy New Year to all...and many thanks.